

I Was Made For This: Part 2- I was made to CONNECT
Genesis 2:8, John 15:9-13, Hebrews 10:24-25

I. ME

A. Welcome/Online/So What About?

B. Series

1. Not using things the way they were designed.
2. We were designed on purpose for a purpose – How we best operate – most fulfilling life = Loving relationships
3. Last week- We were made to love and be loved by God
4. **But also made for relationships with others**

II. WE

A. But real, loving, life-giving relationships are hard to find...

B. Loneliness Epidemic

1. According to a May 2018 Survey of 20,000 American Adults by the global health service company Cigna... In the Last 50 yrs rates of loneliness have doubled in US
2. 47% reported feeling alone, left out, and isolated
3. 27% rarely feel understood
4. 20% believe they rarely or never feel close to people
5. 40% feel like their relationships aren't meaningful
6. Only 18% believe they have people with whom they can communicate

C. **Loneliness is not about being alone... it's about not being known.**

1. In a crowded room and feel lonely... have a full house and feel lonely... b/c you don't feel like anyone really, truly, knows, understands, and accepts you for you.
2. B/c **we were made to be known.**
3. From our very first days it's been part of our design...

D. Gen 2:18

1. **Helper**= Partner-Equal- Someone who comes alongside you in mutual support. Compliments the other... the other have of a whole.
 2. Even if you don't believe the Adam and Eve story (Jesus did) we all know there is something in us that helps us thrive when we are known...
 3. Do some research on **Baby Eye Gaze**... making extended eye contact with your baby...
 4. When adults and babies make eye contact their brain waves actually sync up!
 - a. They know they are acknowledged, appreciated, loved, incredibly important for health and growth.
 5. Something in our DNA that gives us a need to connect with other humans
- E. In fact when we aren't known... when we are lonely it can seriously affect our health and quality of life...
1. Cardiovascular problems
 2. Less quality sleep
 3. Reduction in reasoning and creativity
 4. Less job satisfaction
 5. Anxiety/Depression/Suicidal feelings
 6. Premature death
- F. Sometimes loneliness is thrust on us for a number of reasons... moves/life changes/death...
1. But other times it's self-inflicted... a defense mechanism
 2. Ever been burned/dumped/cut-out by a good friend?
 - a. Often leads to cynicism- "Ah I don't need anyone... I'm better on my own... people just let you down and disappoint you."
 - b. Stop even trying to make friends or be social.
 - c. **Extreme example**- WWII Soldiers not getting to know new recruits b/c they would just die.

3. So one option is cynicism... but there's another option
 - a. A Harder option. A scarier option... B/c it leaves you vulnerable
 - b. But it's the better option... it's the solution to loneliness... it's the way to reclaim your original design...
 - c. It's the option Jesus modeled... **Courageous Love**.

III. GOD (John 15:9-13)

A. V. 9

1. Father loves the Son perfectly.
2. "So have I loved you..."
3. Created to be in relationship with him
4. Our rebellion...
5. Jesus in perfect relationship for eternity with Trinity.
6. Gave it up to come to us... not to be worshipped, not to judge, but to serve... to love... to seek... to save those who had rebelled against him...
7. He knew many would reject him... came anyway... not guarded... not cynical... fully seeking the best of everyone he met... **pre-loving**
8. Made Himself vulnerable to hurt... to the point of death... provide forgiveness... offer to restore our relationship
9. Rose to give new life... not just eternal life when we die... but full life right now... an intimate, personal relationship with Him.
 - a. A life where you are fully known and fully accepted and unconditionally loved by the Creator of the universe... the Creator of love itself.

10. Jesus stared hate/fear/shame/sin straight in the eyes and conquered them with love.

11. Jesus conquered loneliness with Courageous Love.

12. **AND** he invites us and empowers us to do the same...

B. V. 10-11

1. **Commands**- how we best operate... how to live a fulfilling life now...
2. **Joy**—perfect description of a life that has found its purpose... someone who can say everyday, "I was made for this."

C. V. 12-13

1. The solution to loneliness is choosing to love courageously

2. Love is not what you feel- ...it's what you do. Actions. Daily choices.
 3. Laying down your life... comforts/preferences/pride/what you DESERVE/ hopes/dreams... even actual life... for the better of another person.
 4. Brings true Joy... the Joy of God that can't be taken away.
 5. That's a life of purpose!
- D. Where do we start? What does loving courageously actually look like?
- E. Simple but not easy.

IV. YOU

A. Courageous Love In Action.

B. Be Present.

1. **PHONES-- Me**—Don't even hear kids, not at table, try not to when waiting somewhere, not during a conversation
 - a. Reduces **QUALITY** of interactions
2. **SOCIAL MEDIA- Comparisons** w/ other "perfect" lives
 - a. When was the last time you got off of Social Media and said, "Oh man that was refreshing, and life-giving!"?
 - b. Articles... sure

C. Be Loving

1. ...With those closest to you
2. Your goal is to make them feel like they are the most loved person on the planet.
3. Even if it's not always returned... that's why it's **COURAGEOUS**.
4. "What about getting walked on?" What about it?
5. **It's not getting walked on... if it's your choice.**
6. Love through God's love.

D. Be Connected

E. Hebrews 10:24-25

1. **Spur**- like horse... Encourage
2. Others helping others
 - a. Not just listening to a pastor preach... Doesn't say "**let us consider how Jon can spur us on...**"
3. Purposely spending time with people who are practicing choosing Courageous Love
 - a. Loving one another
 - b. Serving one another
 - c. Forgiving one another
 - d. Supporting one another

F. That doesn't happen at a Sunday Service

1. Courageously loving relationships don't form just by sitting in a row looking at the back of someone's head. And saying hi as you eat a cookie afterward.
2. **Example:** Dates going to the movies v. going on an adventure together.
3. Some think they do... love small churches... "where I can know everyone"... **there's a immense difference between knowing and being known**... and even in a church of 20-30 you don't know everyone.
4. **Crosscreek is designed**, not to be a church where everyone knows everyone, but **to be a church where everyone can be known**.

G. Why we have created **Connect Groups (Graphic)**...

1. B/c circles are better than rows
2. It's where the churching happens
3. It's where you can one another one another
4. Not just for Xians. Not just a Bible Study. Designed to give you a chance to develop real courageous loving, relationships.
5. **SIGN UP**

V. WE

- A. What if...
 1. We rejected cynicism and fear and charged courageously, face-first into Connecting with others?
 2. ... Accepted and embraced the relationship Jesus offers
 3. And purposely extended it to others
 4. And experienced the joy of being known and accepted?
- B. Be present, Be Loving, Be Connected... Choose courageous love
- C. B/c **When we connect with others we connect with our true purpose.**